

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 62

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6068

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, BEXP, ETRD, GE

SUBJ: VISIT OF GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL TO US

REF: BERLIN 6052

1. PROPOSED VISIT OF GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER DR. BEIL TO US IN JANUARY 1975 WAS RAISED BY DR. GEYER OF GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH EMBASSY OFFICER ON MARGIN OF LUNCHEON CONVERSATION ON NOVEMBER 15. GEYER EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT VISIT WOULD IN FACT OCCUR (HE DID NOT ELABORATE), ADDING THIS WOULD BE REGRETTABLE CONSIDERING UNRESOLVED TRADE ISSUES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND BEIL'S DESIRE TO DEAL WITH THESE AT AN EARLY DATE.

2. CHAMBER OF FOREIGN TRADE'S DOELLING TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER LATER SAME AFTERNOON OF MESSAGE RECEIVED IN EAST BERLIN FROM GDR EMBASSY'S ADVANCE TEAM IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THE EAST GERMANS WERE INFORMED DURING A NOVEMBER 7 CALL AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE THAT BEIL'S VISIT WOULD HAVE AN "UNOFFICIAL" CHARACTER. THIS INFORMATION HAS APPARENTLY CAUSED CONSTERNATION IN EAST BERLIN AND DOELLING, ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY'S SCHMIED, STATED FLATLY THAT
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BEIL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE

SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL FUNCTION WAS DEPENDENT
ON THE VISIT HAVING AN "OFFICIAL" CHARACTER.

3. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD THE WORDS
"OFFICIAL" AND "UNOFFICIAL" MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH
BEIL'S VISIT, AND WE ASSUME THE DISTINCTION ORIGINATED
WITH THE EAST GERMANS. TO RETRIEVE WHAT MIGHT BECOME
A DIFFICULT SITUATION WITH ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR
FUTURE TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM (SEPTTEL) IN THE GDR, WE
RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PROVIDE
ITS PREFERENCES CONCERNING THE DATES FOR BEIL'S VISIT
(AS REQUESTED IN BERLIN 6035 AND 6052), ALONG WITH
INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW WE MIGHT MOST USEFULLY CHARACTERIZE
THE NATURE OF THIS VISIT TO DR. BEIL, WITHOUT EMPLOYING
WORDS SUCH AS "OFFICIAL" AND "UNOFFICIAL." GROVE

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NNN

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